

## **REMARKS**

In an Office Action mailed October 4, 2003, the Examiner objected to the Title as being non-descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title as set forth above and respectfully submit that the Examiner's objection has been overcome.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 13-23 and 27-30 were allowed, and that claims 6-9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 6 (see claim 1), 7 and 8 in independent form. The Examiner further rejected claims 24-26 and 31-34 over various references. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 24-26 and 31-34 without prejudice.

Accordingly, all of the claims are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicants previously paid for thirty-four (34) claims, including six (6) independent claims. After amendment, this application has twenty-six (26) claims, including five (5) independent claims. Accordingly, no additional claims fees are believed to be due.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has stated that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement were not in the USPTO file. Applicants note that all twelve references cited on the Form PTO-1449 were mailed to the USPTO on January 10, 2002, as evidenced by the return receipt post card date stamped January 18, 2002 (Tab 1). Applicants have provided copies of the three non-patent references and another Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's review.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the three enclosed references and initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to evidence such consideration. Applicants have not submitted any additional fees or made any certifications, since the references were timely filed and received by the USPTO as explained above. However, should any fees be deemed appropriate, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

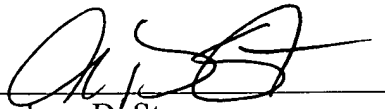
If for any reason this application is not considered to be in condition for

allowance and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: February 2, 2004

By:



Andrew D. Stover

Reg. No. 38,629

Attorney for Applicants

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